

# Take the Pesticide Pledge!

I hereby pledge to reduce or  
eliminate my use of pesticides.

## Join KY EXCEL!

KY EXCEL is the Commonwealth's free environmental leadership program. The core element of being a member is proposing voluntary projects that help the environment; like the pledge above. Each KY EXCEL member chooses projects that fits their work plans and lifestyle. Ask us about the variety of membership levels and benefits to find out which membership type is best for you. Membership is annual and renewing is as simple as proposing a new project.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



Yes, sign me up as a  
KY EXCEL Advocate!

I propose the Pesticide Pledge above as  
my project for the upcoming year.

## Green Tips and Project Ideas

- Join a local clean-up event.
- Use eco-friendly, non-toxic cleaning products.
- Use LED light bulbs.
- Carpool, ride your bike, use public transportation or drive an electric/hybrid vehicle.
- Use reusable items instead of disposable items.
- Recycle and use items made from recycled materials.
- Donate old clothing and home goods.
- Run your dishwasher only when you have a full load.
- Fix leaks; both water and air.
- Air dry your laundry.

The list of potential ways to help protect the environment is endless. Unsure where to start? Contact us. We can help you decide on an idea, design and start your project.

## Division of Compliance Assistance

300 Sower Blvd., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, KY 40601

E-mail: [envhelp@ky.gov](mailto:envhelp@ky.gov)

ENVHelp Line: 502-782-6189

Website: <https://eec.ky.gov/>

Environmental-Protection/Compliance-  
Assistance



Simplifying Compliance,

Living Greener,

Certifying Professionals

# Insects and How to Help



*Making a Difference,  
One Project at a Time*



*"The hum of the bee is the voice of the garden."*

*- Elizabeth Lawrence*

### **Insect Facts**

Insects make up about 80% of all the known species in the world. More than 900,000 insect species have been recorded world-wide and have been on earth for a long time. Dragonflies have existed for more than 300 million years and grasshoppers existed before the dinosaurs. Over the past four decades, scientists have observed a 45% decline on overall insect populations.

### **Why We Need to Protect Insects**

Insects pollinate most of our crops, plants and flowers. Bugs themselves are a source of food for thousands of other species and humans. Insects also aerate our soils and aid in the process of recycling nutrients. Many insect species play a role in keeping harmful bugs from destroying and degrading crops. They contribute at least \$57 billion to the global economy.

### **Threats to Insects**

- Climate Change
- Habitat Loss
- Pesticide Use
- Invasive Species

Of all the species on Earth, insects are the most sensitive and susceptible to the consequences of climate change. Current projections indicate that by the end of the century nearly half of all habitat for insects will be unsuitable due to climate change. Agricultural expansion, excessive use of pesticides at home and on the farm and commercial development are causing potentially irreversible damage to their habitat. Widespread and indiscriminate use of pesticides kill insects and their offspring. Some pesticides have been banned or are regulated because they also cause cancer and other fatal illnesses in humans. The introduction of invasive species may lead to significant problems ranging from the decline of animal or insect populations to the destruction of habitat and ecosystem collapse.

### **How to Help Protect Insects**

- Educate your family and friends.
- Take the Pesticide Pledge.
- Use natural insect control practices.
- Use and promote organic products.
- Create habitats for native insects.
- Learn how to go green and protect the environment.
- Join a community of environmental leaders, like KY EXCEL.

We depend on insects and so do millions of other species. You can protect bugs by learning more about them and by sharing with others how insects positively impact our daily lives. The risks associated with pesticides are considered by many scientists to greatly outweigh the benefits. Many natural remedies exist to deal with pests. Organic products, ranging from food to clothing, avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides. Thus, using and purchasing organic products helps save insects. For those with outdoor space, composting provides habitat for insects. Growing plants native to your local area is another option for supporting and attracting local insects.